

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 31 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd August 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Barāhanagar	4,000	Vol. 5, No. 7 for the month of August.	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ... ..	.....	
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200		
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanāpore ... ..	.....	
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	
Bi-monthly.					
6	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna	25th July 1878. 26th ditto. 31st ditto. 30th ditto. 28th ditto. 26th ditto. 31st ditto. 27th ditto. 24th ditto. 26th ditto. 25th ditto. 28th ditto. 29th ditto. 26th to 31st July 1878. 26th July to 1st August 1878. 24th to 26th, 29th and 30th July 1878.	
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack- pore. ... ..	.....	
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhawanāpore, Calcutta ... ..	.....	
Weekly.					
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhavanāpore, Calcutta ... ..	.....	
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658		
11	"Bhārat Sanskārak"	Harinābhi ... ..	.....	
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ... ..	.....	
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta ... ..	.....	
14	"Bardwan Prachārikā"	Bardwan	165		
15	"Bardwan Sanjīvanī"	Ditto ... ..	.....	
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400		
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168		
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200		
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300		
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rajshahye... ..	.....	
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ... ..	.....	
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto	235		
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250		
24	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	516		
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ... ..	.....	
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto	5,500		
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanāpore	700		
Bi-weekly.					
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta	4,000		
Daily.					
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	550		
31	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ... ..	.....	
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625		
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ... ..	.....	
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ... ..	.....	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
35	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	300	26th July 1878.	
36	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ... ..	.....	
37	"Barrisal Vartābāha"	Barrisal	300		
ENGLISH AND URDU.					
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	27th ditto.	
URDU.					
Bi-monthly.					
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore		
HINDI.					
Weekly.					
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	31st ditto.	
41	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	30th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta	250	26th ditto.	

POLITICAL.

BEARAT SANSKARAK,
July 20th, 1878.

1. The *Bhārat Sanskārak* translates, from Colonel Malleeson's lecture on the Princes of India, delivered in England, an extract, wherein the lecturer sums up the total amount of forces of all descriptions under the different Natives Princes, and discusses the probability of these chiefs uniting against the English power; and says, that such an event is both improbable and undesirable; for none but an enemy of India would desire to see the dissolution of the British power at this time. The interest, of this country and England being closely united, could any well-wisher of India desire to see the oppression and tyranny of former days prevail here again in its worst type? Though we might be occasionally oppressed now by individuals private or public; still every one must admit that, if such oppression could not be removed but by the simultaneous cessation of English rule, the country would be flooded with still more heinous deeds of wrong. Though there is no probability of the Native Princes uniting against the British Government, yet is it not desirable that they should unite in efforts to elevate the country and raise the condition of its millions? True it is, that the former Native Princes by their envy, malice, selfishness, and other low vices, made India flow with blood; but those of the present day are eager to make every expiation for former crimes and misdeeds, and do all they can to renovate India.

BEARAT SANSKARAK.

2. Whilst giving the results of the Congress, the *Bhārat Sanskārak* takes occasion to remark that Russia has by conquest extended her boundaries; and is

The results of the Congress.
resting till she feels again inclined to advance her flag of victory; but how comes it that England, who promised that Turkey should be left unimpaired, has consented to the present arrangement? Has England with all her thunderings against Russia on behalf of Turkey forgotten her former promises? In our opinion it is only holding out hopes, for England to take a portion of Turkish territory, with the view to stave off future Russian encroachments; because it does not seem probable that England, when she did not in the time of Turkey's danger advance against Russia, would do any thing more in the future; and Russia may again seize a large portion of Turkey and escape with her prize by buying off England with the surrender of a portion. This is very reprehensible in England, whose present cabinet, and especially Earl Beaconsfield, is reproached by a large body of the English for the line of conduct that has been adopted in the Congress—what the issue of this may be cannot be guessed at, but we wish to see England following in the path of morality, though it may involve the sacrifice of her interests.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
July 26th, 1878.

3. The *Murshidābād Patrikā* likens the recent Conference to Æsop's monkey and cats; and after giving the heads of the Berlin treaty in detail, the writer goes

The Congress and its results.
on to say that, the English have got possession of Cyprus by a device: but this is a very ordinary gain to them in the midst of this plunder: ordinary, it may appear, but in reality, important; as it gives the English the control of the Mediterranean Sea. Turkey, the host of the feast, has but the leavings of his guests to subsist upon, after having been deprived of the principal members of his body; so that Turkey cannot exist much longer after this. But the Musalmāns are a hardy race; they are like leeches or bats, which remain torpid; but, whenever they find the least chance of sucking blood, take care to gorge themselves with it. Our children are taught in schools that truth is the most excellent of all virtues; but this, when it comes into worldly concerns, is mixed up with self-interest and other things. The civilization of Europe serves as a model now, but that of India counts from the time of the ancient King *Dashamanta*, and now that

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the latter has lost hers, England is taken as a sample, consequently the morals of the 19th century are also new. If the Conference had sat when Russia first proclaimed war against the Turks for the deliverance of the Christians, the latter country would not have been despoiled in this way. There is no remedy now—it is the result of the present policy of the strong sitting as judge over the weak.

4. Prior to giving an account of the lecture delivered by Colonel Malleson, on the 7th June last, relative to the Native

SOM PRAKASH,
July 29th, 1878.

Colonel Malleson's lecture on the Native Princes of India. Princes of India and their friendly relations with Government, the *Som Prakash* reminds its readers of having in its previous issues, informed them of the Government being then engaged in considering whether it was advisable to let the Native Princes keep up a large number of trained forces. The editor, after considering the matter, thinks that the absence or existence of such troops is a matter of indifference; for the English to distrust the native chiefs after they have given such irrefragable proofs of their loyalty to the British, is at once a source of grief and surprise. After giving an account of the lecture, the writer hopes that any decision as to the forces of the Native Princes will not be arrived at in such haste as Act IX was. The Government, before giving its final decision, should remember that these independent Princes are altogether devoted to the English; their main object being to please and to assist them in times of trouble; it is not desirable to be continually finding fault with them; while keeping them in good humour will be an advantage to the British. They will prove of valuable assistance in resisting powerful enemies; but to bestow upon them empty titles while they are kept in an unhappy position is only to tantalize them. There is no doubt they might do a great deal of harm, whether they be successful or not, were they to take up arms against the English. Colonel Chesny, in his discourse on Russia and India, adverted to the mutiny of 1857, when "the Native chiefs" he said "if they had chosen to bear arms against the English could have secured their independence; but with the exception of a few villages, all gave hearty aid to the English cause." In conclusion we do not consider it in any way right for the English Government to offend such attached friends.

5. The *Sahachara*, alluding to Mr. Gladstone's recent motion in Parlia-

SAHACHARA,
July 29th, 1878.

Presentation of an address and presents to Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone. ment on the Vernacular Press Act, calls him a genuine Englishman, a friend of mankind, and an instrument of great power in England. We rejoice to see that he stood up in defence of our rights; and would therefore recommend our fellow-countrymen to join together and unanimously present him with an address of gratitude and thanks, and a set of jewels and dresses of native manufacture to his lady; for it is our undoubted interest so to do. The downfall of the present Premier is desirable, and we should use our endeavours here to that end; for although we do not send a representative to Parliament, yet there are cases in Gabriel's Memoirs where a change of ministry has been effected by foreign ambassadors and their followers. England appears to look with increasing favour on us: and the departure of the 7,000 troops of the Indian contingent to Malta was not in vain. Let but England know that India takes side with the Liberals, and she will not refuse to listen to us; and in time we hope to exercise an influence over the policy of the Cabinet. Mr. Gladstone is our friend, and we should declare publicly that it would be to the advantage of India, if he became Prime Minister. Although Earl Beaconsfield does as he pleases in Parliament; yet if we understand the signs of the times, his fall is not far off. It is therefore to our interest to keep Mr. Gladstone on our side, and it is also desirable that the British

Indian Association, the representative of India, should take up the matter proposed. Mahárájáh Jotindramohan Tagore may object, but he is not the country. The public were greatly displeased when the Association did nothing in the matter of the Press Act. For it to sit silent now would not be well.

BISHWA DUT,
July 31st, 1878.

6. After giving a *resumé* of Colonel Malleson's lecture on the Native Princes of India, the *Bishwa Dúta* remarks that Government has nothing to fear at the hands of the Native Princes. Adversity tries friends; and the English Government knows better than we do, the friendship exhibited by the Native Princes at the time of the mutiny, for they risked their lives to aid the English rather than go against them. Is it therefore consistent to entertain any suspicions whatsoever against the Native Princes?

BISHWA DUT.

7. The *Bishwa Dúta*, in writing of the policy of Earl Beaconsfield, remarks that, in consequence of the close connection existing between England and India, the one has always a sympathy with the other, rejoicing in her victories and saddened by her defeats. We feel proud when we think of Nelson and Wellington having worsted Napoleon in battle; and feel that England alone is the most worthy to rule such an extensive empire as India. The writer thinks it possible that Englishmen may suppose he adopts this style, induced by fear of Act IX; but he protests that he writes sincerely. He cannot say how far it will be possible for England to meet all the obligations she has undertaken in connection with the possession of Cyprus, and considers she has taken upon herself a heavy responsibility which she will be ill-able to sustain.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
July 24th, 1878.

8. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, in an article on the language of the Courts, despairs of seeing it improved by any exertions of the large number of educated Bengali M. As. and B. As. who seem to have forgotten the first lesson books of their mother tongue. Judicial officers and pleaders mix Persian and English words in their Law Proceedings, alleging as an excuse that press of official business prevents them from paying due attention to their own language. Now we do not wish them to indulge in a high style or to write poetry, but to make a practice of using good pure and simple Bengali, paying particular attention to correct orthography, as educated Bengalis do in English. Let them try and remove this great blot as soon as possible.

HINDU RANJIKÁ.

9. This paper attributes the present distressed state of good and respectable men to their false pride, being ashamed of betaking themselves to independent trade. Every one seems anxious rather for the slavery of service. The sons of tradesmen and artificers, after receiving a good education, evince the same desire; though service is difficult to be had. The country cannot prosper whilst this kind of pride lasts, and trade and agriculture are despised. Cultivators of the soil are now better off than office *keránis*, and are feeling elevated and proud: for they condescend to do any kind of work, so as to keep themselves comfortable. Whereas, if one member of a respectable family secures a high post, the other members live on him, rather than occupy themselves in trade. Again, though the income of the present race of respectable men is less than their expenditure, yet they will not betake themselves to agricultural pursuits or trade; hence their distress.

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10. Referring to the Surat case, the *Bhārat Mihir*, remarks that great expectations were entertained, at the time the Queen assumed the title of Empress, that all

BHARAT MIHIR,
July 26th, 1878.

The Surat case.

distinctions between conquerors and conquered would slowly pass away : and the Empress would no longer be indifferent to the interests of the land, and we should soon forget that India was a conquered or a foreign country. But practically the breach has been widened by Government after the 1st of January 1877. The administration has become more stringent ; we are made to see more clearly than ever that we live under a foreign Government, and are subjects of another power. Anguish leads us to use this strong language. We know that we are Bengali editors, and of a conquered race in a foreign country of a different religion, and we are also aware that the sharp sword of Act IX hangs over our heads suspended by a fine thread. Our distress, arising from the perception of the error into which Government has fallen, will not allow us to suppress our feelings. Government is making a very great error with respect to us, as a conquered and a foreign race. Both orally and in writing it declares that there is no doubt of our loyalty ; but there is not a proceeding or an action of this Government which does not betoken strong evidence of a feeling of suspicion against us, though we can assure them that there is no native so mad as to wish for the extinction of British Rule at the present time ; for the country could not continue four days without the support of the English. The education, preparation, civilization, or other changes necessary in the very nature of the country, that shall lead to independence, do not exist. Government had its suspicions before, and these have assumed a more tangible shape under Lord Lytton's government. Act IX, the Arms Act, and the prosecution of the Surat editors, who were accused of inciting the rioters, are the results of such suspicions ; else why should these men have been made public spectacles, led through the bazárs and roads handcuffed. Hitherto we knew not that such oppression under the English Government would be probable ; such a fuss would not have been made in any other place than India. The License Tax terrified and upset the petty traders altogether. In England too there are riots and strikes, but these are not called sedition. The editors ought not to receive heavy punishment ; we can plainly say that in the present case, the aim and limits of punishment have been exceeded. When once justice was satisfied, where was the use of renewing a fresh charge against a *vakíl* and two editors. If the words of a native editor be not despised, we can assure Government that to rule by fear is inconsistent, the rulers and the ruled suffer alike, and the roots of loyalty become weakened. Our chief duty is to see that the English rule is preserved for a still farther period, and it is therefore we say that for the Government to give up a liberal for a severe rule will only serve to weaken it ; for who has been able to keep a country for any length of time merely by force of arms or severity ?

11. The *Bhārat Mihir*, on the Arms' Act, remarks that confidence begets confidence, whereas suspicions and mistrust can never engender it. As an example, English subjects and Eurasians can be trusted, but not the natives : the former may have arms but not the latter. In plain words the Arms' Act has been enacted only for the natives, the conquered race, who dislike subjection and are not content under a foreign rule, &c., and cannot be trusted with safety. In plain language it is intended to mark the distinction between conquerors and conquered. Even allowing that Government has some special reason for making this distinction ; what moral lesson will it teach, and how will the public understand their position under Government ? These distinctions might create doubts even in the mind of trusty

BHARAT MIHIR.

The Arms' Act and mistrust of the Natives.

confiding man. One provision of the Arms' Act makes us feel ashamed; and that is where Police Magistrates and officers and all judicial officers, except munsifs, are exempted from the operation of the law. However, somewhat of the dignity of the court has been preserved by the Subordinate Judges being also excluded. O! unfortunate Munsif! the Government could not trust thee, where it could repose some trust, however small, in a constable or Sub-Deputy Magistrate. On observing your perplexity, with grief distress, and shame, we reflect on the bad state of the country. Although a judge you could not secure the respect of Government. We entreat the Government for its own sake and for that of the country to cast away its suspicions, and adopt a milder line of conduct. Try this and take the country into confidence, and treat it sincerely as one with it. Not a sound of discontent will be heard nor a drop of the poison of anguish be seen in any stratum of society; all former remembrances will be forgotten, and people will gradually become more attached to the Government. Oh! that Government would but try the experiment and notice its beneficial results. If, otherwise, and the natives are still mistrusted, their minds will become void of trust in the honor of Government, however severe the means it may adopt.

BHARAT MIHIR,
July 25th, 1878.

12. Referring to the Secretary of State's recent despatch on the Press Act, the *Bhārat Mihir*, amongst other comments, says that Sir Ashley Eden was one of the principal instigators of the Act, and he was anxious to have it passed, because he saw some of his subordinate officers had been attacked: else why would he have been so restless to get the law passed for so peaceful a province as Bengal, where there never has been treason or a disposition to treason, nor has Government had aught to fear; we believe he will be distressed at reading the despatch.

BHARAT MIHIR.

13. Referring to the late attempt at assassination of the Emperor of Germany, to the suppression and disregard of public opinion in Russia, where the people have in a manner sold themselves to the Government, the *Bhārat Mihir* says it was only the other day that the labouring class of England rose; whilst from observing Lord Baconfield's intentions, England is anxious about securing the power of the people. In France, the Monarchical power has been destroyed, and the Republican established, and Italy has after a long struggle tasted independence. At no time has the contest between the Monarchy and the Republic ceased. Grinding servitude under the Musalman rule annihilated all our desires for independence; but our minds have since been renovated by English education and literature and contact; and yet aware of this fact, Government is making its administration more stringent. The present policy of the Government is quite opposed to the power of the people. Witness Act IX and the Arms Act, and see therein the want of confidence shown by Government to the people. The land cannot be content if the power of the people be not increased proportionately with their advance in knowledge and civilization. There is no doubt that natives in India may secure a place in Parliament. We entreat Government to adopt a mild, munificent, and high-minded line of conduct towards its conquered subjects; for by this it will secure deep attachment where it would not get a tittle by harsh measures. Severity will make the people of this country useless and fit for nothing.

BHARAT MIHIR.

14. The *Bhārat Mihir* says that Mahārāja Jotindramohan's vote for the Press Act has done much evil to the country. We are well aware of the value of a native's opinion in a European Council, though foreigners

Rājāh Jotindramohan's position
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would not understand it, and this accounts for the Secretary of State having relied so much on the Maharájá's vote: but we cannot explain to foreigners the reasons why he supported Lord Lytton; for if we did, it would cast a stigma on our nation. He did not of his own free will vote for the Act. Be the reason what it may, the country has suffered heavily thereby. We must add with regret that his timidity, coupled with the subsequent conduct of the British Indian Association, has lost him the confidence of the country: for a native member like him to be in the Council is a misfortune for the land.

15. The *Bhārat Sanskarak*, in publishing a translation of that portion of the Blue Book on the Press Act, which gives the opinions of the members of the Madras

Blue Book on the Press Act.

Government, eulogizes them for their justice and discretion in the matter; and says that a great difference in this respect exists between Madras and the other Governments of India. Sir Ashley Eden, whose name will remain long connected with the Press Act, the great friend of Bengal, was the most active in his endeavours to destroy the liberty of the Vernacular Press. The Lieutenant-Governor of the *Panjāb* and the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces recommended that the Native and English Press should be treated alike; whilst some of our minor administrators, who had to deal with troublesome subjects, were bitter against the Native Press and advised its extinction.

16. The *Murshidābād Patrikā* recommends Government to make retrenchments at the rate of two per cent. in the incomes of persons earning between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, and not to effect a saving by reducing stationery and discharging pankah-pullers, *dafteries*, and peons. He also complains that in the recent grading of junior educational officers, the poor teachers drawing salaries ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 have been left out.

Government savings and retrenchments.

17. The *Sulabha Samāchār* notices the great amount of work with which all judicial officers are at present burdened; more so in the case of the Munsif and Deputy, who come home from office about 8 P.M., and write their decisions in the morning, having scarcely time to take a glass of brandy. The Civilian Judges and Magistrates are equally burdened, and that with most important work, though their high position and authority are some compensation for their labour. Judicial work is all important, often involving life-long interests, and heaps of papers have to be examined. If Government desires to save money and burden its officers with work, it cannot expect that work to be done well. Besides, such a state of affairs leads to mal-practices amongst *vakils* and *mukteárs*, and bribery for the *amlahs*. During Sir George Campbell's rule, the number of judicial officers was decreased, and the work increased. He expected others to work as hard as himself. But this cannot be done by natives of the country, and he did not remain to see the success of his scheme of sub-deputies; for which he was abused at the time, though these men now have turned out well and wait to fill higher posts. Judicial work to be properly done requires time for deliberation; and to effect this the number of officers should be increased in proportion to the extent of work; let this be a means of finding work for the number of unemployed Bengali graduates. The contemplated scheme of having Sub-Munsifs of three grades on salaries varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200, if carried out now, would be an opportune and excellent one. Another such a body of Sub-Deputies as Sir George Campbell created is required to place the judicial machine in order. If this be not done, both judges and people will be greatly inconvenienced.

Paucity of Judicial officers.

BHARAT
SANSKARAK,
July 26th, 1878.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA.
July 26th, 1878.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
July 27th, 1878.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
July 27th, 1878.

18. The *Sulabha Samachar*, complaining of the way in which taxes are mis-applied, urges that they should be appropriated to the specific purposes for which

The mis-application of taxes.

they were raised—for instance, the maintenance of the public roads in repair was provided for, hitherto from the Ferry and Public Works Funds. Since the Road Cess Act came into operation, Government has withdrawn the assistance from those two funds, locking up the former in its treasury; so that the road cess alone is now devoted to its legitimate object. But unfortunately the income from this tax is appropriated to the repairs, and not the construction of new roads: leaving communication between villages at a stand-still to the great inconvenience of the inhabitants. Of this statement the authorities in the mufussal might easily satisfy themselves by paying a visit to the out-stations during the rains. Again, it is not just to spend after one division, the money which belongs to another, and that before the works in the latter have been completed. How will Government be trusted by the people, if their hard paid taxes are not used for their own immediate benefit? After all the roads required have been made and provided for, let Government then devote the surplus of the Road Fund to such purposes as it thinks proper, where needed. Again, why has the income of the Ferry Fund been retained by Government, and how is it intended to be spent? Let the Road Cess Fund be devoted for the benefit of the people who pay it; otherwise they will think Government has been deceiving them. Our councillors make long speeches to explain the purpose for which certain taxes are needed: when realized therefore they ought to be expended so as to please the people.

HINDU HITASHINI,
July 27th, 1878.

19. The *Hindu Hitashini* contains a long editorial headed, "How are we?"

How are we faring? The state of the country.

in the course of which it institutes a comparison between the condition of the people at the present time with what it was under the *Muhammadans*. The editor prefaces his observations with the remark,—Since, even the possession of a vast amount of learning and knowledge does not entitle a man to be regarded wise, unless he is crowned with the virtues of humility and courtesy, so a sovereign, however meritorious he may be in other respects, would not be worthy of the name, if he were not able to promote the happiness and prosperity of his subjects. It should be next observed, that, our rulers should not consider us disloyal if on an impartial consideration of the subject, we are obliged to pronounce the British Government, in some respects, inferior to the Muhammadan. Now, in the first place, there is this striking point of contrast. Under the Muhammadans, the people did not experience any hardships from scarcity of food; famines were almost unknown in the land. The case is, however, otherwise at the present time, when there is want in every home, and hundreds are dying from starvation. It is not that the prevailing high prices are due to any overplus of population; the evil is entirely owing to the extensive exportation of corn from the country. The good old system of division of labour, kept in force by the caste system, laid down by the famous Hindu legislator, *Manu*, has now well nigh disappeared by the spread of education amongst all ranks of the people. The result of this has been that the ordinary classes have become averse to labour and a peasant's son who has taken his university degree is not a rare sight. A predilection for service and an aversion to independent pursuits have become prominent features of the present time. The recurrence of famines and the burden of taxation are occasioning considerable distress; whilst the extravagant expenditure of Government is swelling the national debt, to pay off which there is no other available means than our own wealth; and in this year of famine when put to straits, by its lavish expenditure and consequent

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heavy indebtedness, Government is reviving an obnoxious and burdensome tax to meet the deficiency. If like Náziruddín, the son of Altamán, the Government were to learn to contract its expenses, the entire debt would be wiped off in two or three years, and India's deficit supplied.

20. Referring to the rejection by Parliament of the petitions from

Result of the petition to Parliament
against the Press Act.

India against the Press Act, and to Reuter's telegram giving the three objections raised, the *Sádháraní* discusses the third, wherein Mr. Gladstone is reported to have said that "he disclaimed any intention of appealing to the British Government to the discredit of the Indian Government." The editor expresses his inability to understand the meaning of this; arguing that, if the provisions of the Act be objectionable, and if there really exist no grounds for enacting it, the Government of India ought to be blamed for its ignorance, and the Act should have been at once rescinded. For what other reason could the appeal have been made to the British nation, but with the object of finding fault with the action of Government. Since Sir George Campbell expressed his dissatisfaction at the weakness of Mr. Gladstone's proposition, there is no doubt that he would have rejoiced had a proposal been made for the rescission of the Act. We are exactly of this opinion, we had appealed, and therefore did not hesitate to censure the acts of the lower tribunal. We have all along said that there was no necessity for passing Act IX. Government has not acted discreetly in enacting it, and it ought to be repealed.

SADHARANI,
July 28th, 1878.

21. The *Sádháraní* says that, there is to be found in various parts

The Press Act.

of Bengal a class of half educated men, who are opposed to any kind of political agitation, who will now rejoice at the defeat of Mr. Gladstone; but we must tell them that they do not see far into things. If they think that the present agitation respecting Act IX has been fruitless, they are mistaken: for we do not remember any instance where a Law has been referred to the State Secretary, and he has made known his decision and advised the Indian Government to amend certain portions, three months after the passing of the Act; and this expedition we may consider as the result of the present movement. Under the instructions given by the Secretary of State to the Government of India, there will be in reality no objection to our criticising the actions of Government or the proceedings of its officers. It was on account of the agitation here in India, that the Secretary of State looked into the details of the Act; for no law has hitherto been so soon amended. In conclusion, we would advise our fellow-countrymen to keep up the agitation, and not to remain listless, as the result of the movement has not as yet fulfilled our expectations.

SADHARANI.

22. The *Som Prakásh* gives the report of the Commission for the

Mr. Cockerell's Bill for the relief of
the ryots of the Deccan.

relief of the ryots of the Deccan from the oppression of the mahájans, and remarks that the exertions made in this direction are right, but the ryots cannot be benefited till their condition is improved; as they depend solely on the soil for their subsistence, and have not the means of eking out their income by any other kind of labour, and the rent they have to pay does not correspond with the nature of the land they hold. All these things should be set right; 1st.—If plans are to be undertaken to benefit the ryots, the chief thing to be done to counterbalance in some measure the want of fertility in the soil is to make with the ryots a permanent settlement; next the obstructions to the productiveness of the soil, should also be removed by the aid of Government, wealthy persons, and the ryots themselves in union; 2nd.—Public works should be undertaken so as to induce the ryots to diligence in labour

SOM PRAKASH,
July 29th, 1878.

and open out to them other sources of income ; and, lastly, a permanent settlement will rid the peasant at once of the difficulty he suffers from a periodical increase and decrease of rents. These opinions are advanced from observations of the change in the condition of the Bengal ryots who were formerly in a very bad position ; with scarce two meals a day or anything better than rags to wear ; unable to meet the zamindár's demands for rent, in due time, and the punishment they suffered on failure. Often were they confined in the lime godowns of the zamindár, and as a last resource they were obliged to take indigo advances and endure the severe strokes of the Rámkánto and Shámchánd. Large quantities of lands lay waste for the want of means to cultivate. Many of the cultivators were deep in debt ; grain was cheap, and coarse paddy sold at Rs. 7 a *káhan* ; whereas now that same paddy cannot be had under Rs. 20. Not a speck of land lies waste, and many of the peasants are even better off than the families of many respectable men. This change for the better arises from the openings out of various sources of income ; with increase of exportation the price of rice has arisen, and the demand for labor has become very great. Apart from this, the peasant has been relieved from the oppressions of both zamindárs and indigo-planters, and also from debt. The courts are friendly towards their cause, and Government is looking after their rights. If such favourable and fortunate circumstances fall to the lot of the Deccan ryots, there is no doubt but that they too will become equally prosperous.

SOM PRAKASHA,
July 29th, 1878.

23. The Hooghly correspondent of this paper bestows much praise on Mr. Robert Cornish for his judgment in a recent case tried by him in *Hooghly*, wherein, notwithstanding the reluctance of the prosecutor and the failure of his witnesses, he fined one Mr. Dyce Rs. 25 for severely assaulting a poor *khalásie*. We have a common saying that the *sáhib* always comes off victorious when pitted in a case against a native, but this at the present day turns out to be an erroneous conclusion.

24. Referring to the defeat of Mr. Gladstone on the Vernacular Press Act, the *Saháchár* says that, when any subject is made a party question, it is sure to fail. What are the poor natives of India to do when Mr. Beaconsfield previously instructed his party to support his views ? For this conduct the English reproach themselves ; yet we assert that it was opposed to genuine policy to make the matter a party one. The natives are aware that the Government of India merely carries out the orders of the Secretary of State ; for in every little matter, such as the reduction of a corporal guard, his permission must be had. The natives are likewise aware that our Government here is constantly protesting with that in England about the revenue of this country, and if these protests were but heeded, there would be no deficits nor new burdensome taxes, and it is also known that the Acts of the Indian Government all aim at the benefit of the country ; though in some of these there has been a failure on account of the Horse Guards and the Cabinet. When this Government seeks any aid for beneficial purposes from England it fails ; but when an appeal is made on account of any distressful results of its proceedings, it is highly unjust for the English Government to reply that "the power of the Indian Government would be curtailed." This allegation we totally deny. No one can say that the Indian Government wilfully does injustice. Proceedings are not carried on here in a party spirit, and it is no genuine policy to leave an error of this Government unrectified on the excuse that its power must be preserved intact. The Governor-General is the Viceroy ; and if Parliament will not amend his errors, who else can ? Or do the Judges of the High Court forfeit the confidence of the public

SAHACHAR,
July 29th, 1878.

The relation between the Governments of England and India and the Press Act.

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in their fitness and impartially, because of the Privy Council upsetting some of their judgments? The Parliament of England is over all; and if it rescinded the Press Act, would the Government here be degraded thereby? Again, every one knows that the House of Commons is the final tribunal for all matters concerning the British Possessions. The Cabinet did not act well in refusing to rescind the Act; for thereby the progress of our literature has been impeded. The fears of Government about a mutiny are groundless. No one desires to see the fall of the British Empire. But it must be admitted that the newspapers have occasionally used hard language, yet if the Act were rescinded, such writing would scarcely be renewed; because the press, when aware that its dependence could be taken away in an hour, would not endanger it on any account. If the Parliament had rescinded the Act, people would have been grateful for the boon; and its purposes would have been fulfilled; having refused to supply it, the Cabinet of England has lost the opportunity of obtaining the gratitude of the natives. In conclusion, let our rulers act discreetly and not with a view to show their power. For every one recognizes *that*, and no one wishes to enter into any contest with them. Our entreaty is that as the writers have become cautious, so should our rulers act with patience and forbearance.

25. The *Saháchára* notices two existing evils in the High and Small Cause Courts of Calcutta. In the former the complaint is about the heavy costs taken for

Two evils in the High and Small Cause Courts.

translating appeal papers; thereby deterring many from going into court. In some cases the costs of translation rise so high by degrees that the suitor is compelled to forego his case. Since Government has appointed judges ignorant of the vernaculars, it should take care that the cost of translating documents for their use should be borne by the public Exchequer. In alluding to the ignorance of the judges of the languages we do not at all mean to impugn the propriety of appointing them. As an excess of suits is not desirable, so also it is contrary to policy to turn any people from recourse to the courts by the great expenses involved in carrying on a case. This latter evil has become so unbearable, that we have been obliged to refer to it again. In the next instance the issue, through the medium of the Small Cause Court of Mafussal Perwanahs out of due time has become a source of great inconvenience, owing to the serving peons requiring to be remunerated first. The processes should be served through the sheriff as before.

SAHACHARA,
July 29th, 1878.

26. The *Sahachara* has the following in its weekly column of news, relative to the assessment of the License Tax in the *mafussal*. The Collector has directed the

The License Tax assessment.

panchayats to ascertain the income of the petty traders. The members of this body have opportunities now of satisfying their desire of gain, not disdaining even to take vegetables, radish, and fish. The good, upright and educated men of the villages have kept aloof from joining the *pancháyat*; but worthless people who delight in civil proceedings, *Báraivari-pándágiri*, &c. (collectors of subscriptions for *pujás*), have become members. Thus they have the opportunities to ruin those on whom they have any grudge or spite, and hesitate not to act unjustly if they get a bribe. We, therefore, hope to see the Collector give up the *pancháyat* system.

SAHACHAR.

27. Referring to the three recent trials of Europeans, viz., White at Calcutta for murder, and Drury and Bedford, railway servants at Bombay, for receiving bribes,

Are the police guilty of concocting false cases against Europeans?

wherein all three persons were acquitted, because the evidence against them was not to be relied upon, the *Saháchára* notices the remarks of the English Press to the effect that the lives of Europeans are in danger on account of false witnesses; also that it would be sufficient to keep only *chaukidárs* and

SAHACHARA.

abolish the police; and says, the real question to be ascertained is whether the police get up false cases against Europeans. From the tenor of the remarks made by Mr. Dickens during the trial of the Purí Rájá, it would appear to be his opinion that the police have not the courage to concoct cases against great and powerful men. Now individual Englishmen are more powerful than the Rájá; could the police have the courage to take them up? In the case of Mr. White, a correspondent of the *Statesman* alleged that there was an intimacy existing between *Munsab* and Mr. White's mistress; so that, if this fact came to the knowledge of the police, could they remain passive at the words of a man like Jadub Bairágí? In addition to all this, Mr. Monro, the Inspector-General, himself personally investigated the case, so that there was every reason for the arrest of Mr. White, and the police would have neglected their duty if they omitted to do so. With reference to the two cases of bribery, the Railway authorities were quite justified in prosecuting the accused (though they were ultimately acquitted for want of evidence), as every one admits bribery is carried on freely in the railway. None of the friends of these three Europeans can say that they were prosecuted through spite or malice. We do not mean to support the police, for they do produce false witnesses; though we are bound to say that to trump up an entire case is seldom seen now. The case is itself true, but the police raise up one or two false witnesses with the true ones. This is not right on their part, and therefore it is that they cannot bring real offenders to justice.

SANGHAD
PRABHAKARA,
July 29th, 1878.

28. Referring to the final despatch of the Secretary of State on the Vernacular Press Act, the *Sangbád Prabhákara* hopes to see a better day dawn for the native newspapers, when the liberals come into power, on the dissolution of Parliament about a year hence; till then patience is necessary. We never expected to hear from the lips of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the most civilized nation on earth, during a debate in Parliament, words to the effect that the rescission of the Act would weaken the power of England. We leave it to the public, both Native and European, to judge whether such an expression was worthy of utterance in reference to an Act so universally condemned.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 30th, 1878.

29. An anonymous correspondent of the *Bardwan Sanjivani*, writing from Rániganj with reference to the license tax operations, says that the sub-division of the above place consists of several important villages, amongst which are *Pánigarh* and *Ajodhyá* in the *Báhádur Káksá* thana: *Ichhápur*, *Gaurbázár*, and *Daumhání* in the *Rániganj* thana, and *Níamatpur* in the *Assensole* thana, in all which the Collector knew great and many traders dwelt; he therefore despatched an Assessor first to these places, whose mode of assessment surpasses description. The atmosphere of *Ichhápur* being bad, the Bábu lost his reason and assessed such poor people there as were scarcely able to earn a sufficient livelihood after a hard day's manual labour. The assessment of the house tax previous to this was just in the same way; so that, when the houses of the poor people who were assessed came to be sold for default, the proceeds did not suffice to pay the tax. The Collector pays no heed to any representation made to him on the matter. Let the subject-loving Government have compassion on *Ichhápur* and see justice done. Fever is greatly prevalent there one or two in a family being laid up with it. Bábu Rádháballabh Bishwás the *Kaviráj*, is exerting himself much in the care of people and supplying the poor with medicines gratis: no one has as yet died here. Paddy has not at all been cultivated in Rániganj on account of the drought, and the price of rice is rising daily; the district of Bírghúm is also in the same state for want of rain.

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30. The *Bishwa Dūt* says : people afflicted with a certain kind of ophthalmic disorder see everything yellow ; so there are some Englishmen attacked with a

BISHWA DUT,
July 31st, 1878.

Stringent legislation.

malady of the mind, which produces in them mistrust of all natives, from the prince to the peasant, and makes them think that the severer the laws with which they are bound, the more safe will English rule be here in India. If such people are to be believed, there is no safety for the English race in this country. This may be termed an epidemic disease, which, after attacking one or two individuals, has seized a vast number of the Europeans in India, not sparing even the Government, which is therefore gradually enacting stringent laws and grinding down all India. We already have the Press and Arms Acts, and on some future day will have an Act for diminishing the forces of the Native Princes. Stringent laws are no doubt necessary on the first acquisition of a kingdom ; but as the connection between the Government and its subjects gradually becomes firm and more intimate, and good-will springs up between them, laws should be made less stringent ; but the contrary is observed to be the case with the English Government, whose laws become severer as time passes on. This is really a great misfortune for the Rájás and the subjects : for what can be more distressing than to see the English Government having recourse to severe laws after the lapse of a rule extending over one hundred and fifty years ? We have up to this time failed to discover the fault for which the people of India are made the objects of such stringent laws. Legislators enact laws and regulate punishments according to the crimes to be dealt with ; but have the natives committed so many faults that they need to be subjected to such hard punishment ? We see in them no such crime as to lead to the enactment of stringent laws. We have therefore been obliged, with a sorrowing heart, to set down the English as afflicted with some dire disease.

31. Referring to the recent trials of two Railway Europeans at Bombay for bribery, and of Mr. White for murder in Calcutta, and the acquittal of all three

BEHAR BANDHU,
July 31st, 1878.

The late trials of Europeans for bribery and murder.

prisoners, the *Behár Bandhu* says that the English newspapers have raised a hue and cry about the natives being liars, and having a desire to entrap Europeans by false charges ; also that the police, and no less the Government, wilfully try to implicate innocent Europeans, who are therefore not safe in the country. These poor people seem to have become so terrified of the Hindustanis as to be unable to sleep. These accounts have been written in so plaintive a style, as to remind one of the fables of old ; but both Hindustanis and Englishmen are inclined to laugh when they observe the real state of the Europeans in the country. Now, it should be seen how far the accounts of the newspapers are true : if their story be correct, then our thoughts of ease, comfort, pleasure, inconvenience, and fear must be erroneous ; because in our opinion, if there is a heaven in the world for Europeans, that is Hindustan, where their own minds would tell them how comfortable and safe they are ; but when they are represented as being in such a pitiful state, they must only be compassionated for their contrary notions of ease, comfort, and security. We have nothing to say as to the above men being acquitted ; in fact we are rather glad of it, and even if guilty and acquitted there would be no harm, for it is better for a hundred guilty to escape than for one innocent to suffer. After all they are but mortals, and though acquitted must have felt remorse for their crimes if really guilty ; but what is the object of all this fuss, and where is the profit of weeping and lamenting at the release of these Europeans ? We are unable to comprehend this. From the proceedings in the trial, there appear to have been some reasons for which the Magistrate committed the prisoners, else why would he have

done so? If it was proved that there was a conspiracy, should not the conspirators have been arrested? It may be that the witnesses were terrified in an English court, or were under the influence of greed, or fear of Europeans, and therefore gave conflicting evidence, on the ground of which the prisoners were acquitted. Such cases occur in this district by hundreds of thousands. How will justice be done if we, too, imitate the English papers and raise a hue and cry of favoritism against the officials and the police? Now, we wish to know the object with which all this clamour has been made. Is any special race to be exempted from (arrest by) the police; or is the court not to try the matter in such a case? How much better and magnanimous would it have been if the English newspapers had expressed their gratitude to the Judge on the prisoners being acquitted.

EDUCATION.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 29th, 1878.

32. Gosáindás Sarkár, a correspondent writing to the *Som Prákásh*, from Ilchhobá, remarks that the results of the Present selection of books for the Scholarship examination complained of. Scholarship examinations for the past few years have not been very good; for this teachers and pupils should not be blamed, as the fault lies in the selection of the books which are beyond the capacity of boys of weak intellect, and some of them perhaps of the teachers. Books that are difficult to be understood by the candidates for the Scholarship examination should be excluded from the selection: and works more suited to the capacity of these lads substituted, when both teachers and pupils will be satisfied and the results of the examination turn out better.

FAMINE.

BHARAT MIHIR,
July 25th, 1878.

33. The *Bhárat Mihir*, under the head of Local, says that this part of the country (Mymensingh) is flooded, and the peasants on the *chars* (or river islands) in great distress; there is no prospect whatsoever for the *aus* crop. In the town, rice is selling at Rs. 3-8, and in the mafussal at Rs. 4. Famine is imminent here, though it cannot be said that any one has up to this died from its effects; all articles are at famine prices. Rain is coming down in torrents daily, and the Brahmaputrâ rising. The Dacca Commissioner has come down to see the state of Jamálpur.

BHARAT MIHIR.

34. An anonymous correspondent of this paper, writing from Dinájpur, states that it is difficult this year to obtain the *mugi* rice in Fulbári, for which that place is so celebrated. It last year sold at 30 and 35 seers, and at the present time can be had at 15 and 16 seers only.

RANGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
July 25th, 1878.

35. The *Rangpore Dik Prákásh* mentions that that part of the country has been visited with heavy and incessant rain during almost every day of the past month. The fields, roads, ghâts, pits, &c., have been flooded, and the mafussal peasants living on the low lands have lost their all, and may be said to be floating in the water, living on temporarily erected platforms. The seed cultivated in *Baishakh* and *Jaisth* (March and April) has been destroyed; the high lands, however, are better off. Rice is selling at Rs. 4 and Rs. 4-8 per *pacca* maund; whilst edibles are dear. Many poor people have to content themselves with one meal a day, whilst others subsist on roots and fruits. The *aus* crop is destroyed, and the poor of *Rangpore* have nothing to subsist on for two or three months. The distress connected with the famine of 1280 B.S. (about 1872-73) commenced at the close of that year, but the present distress is seen at the very beginning; so that

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Government and the authorities ought to be on the alert. Now the railway here will increase the exportation of rice and paddy. This, however, should be so regulated as to leave sufficient for consumption in the country.

36. The *Murshidábád Patriká* says that the *ashu* (or early crop)

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
July 26th, 1878.

State of the *ashu* (or early) crops in
Murshidábád.

has become quite seared for want of rain, a fall of which even now would secure a four-anna crop; whereas, if it keeps off some

days longer, the entire crop will be destroyed. There was a slight fall of rain yesterday.

37. The Jamálpore correspondent of this paper says that, if the rain which is now coming down daily had but visited the place somewhat earlier, the peasants

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
July 26th, 1878.

State of the Indian crops at Jamál-
pore.

would have had two crops of the Indian-corn; owing to the delay in the rain-fall, there will now be only one such crop.

38. The Midnapore correspondent of this paper writes, saying that hitherto cultivation and sowing were all finished by the close of the month of *Ashárh*

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

Bad state of the paddy crops in
Midnapore.

(middle of June), but owing to the entire absence of rain, the rice seedlings have not been planted out yet (close of July). The little that sprung up has been scorched and withered; whilst paddy for the sowing of the *haimanta* (winter) crop is procurable with difficulty, and sometimes not at all. Not only the poor, but the middle class are in want of food; whilst the beggars go about like pilgrims from door to door. Should no rain fall in a few days, paddy will, from the present aspect of the crops, become still more dear.

39. The *Sádháraní* quotes several papers, English and Native, giving accounts of the scarcity of food in various places in Bengal and Nagpore, and says that

SADHARANI,
July 28th, 1878.

Scarcity of food in Bengal.

it has also received tidings of dire distress from the Bardwán and Hooghly districts, where the inhabitants can get scarcely one or two meals a day, and beggars have increased considerably. In the former district *Sádipur*, *Balrámpur*, *Bérugráh*, *Rájárámpur*, &c., are mentioned, and in the latter *Choupá*, *Rayé*, *Gurhop*, &c., *Dinájpur*, *Rangpur*, and the eastern part of *Bagura* have been flooded, and the price of husked rice has risen considerably. In *Orissá* the paddy crop has been scorched and dried up for want of rain. Edible grains have become dear, and the poor people are almost starving, and cholera is carrying off many. Rice is selling here at eight seers, *dál* at four seers, and *ghee* at half a seer per rupee. From this it seems that the demon of famine has again entered *Orissá*. People who never asked alms before are forced to do so now to satisfy the cravings of hunger. Such is the present condition of this province, and if the rain still keeps off, there will be a severe famine, when it will be difficult indeed to save the poor. The Local Government should direct its special attention to this matter.

40. The Haripál correspondent of this paper writes, saying that rice is very dear, selling at 7 seers for the rupee; and *that* even is not always to be had. The rice is, moreover, so coarse as not to be fit for consumption by respectable people. The middle class people are sorely distressed in particular. There is no good rainfall.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 30th, 1878.

41. A correspondent of the *Sahachara* says that the price of *bazár* rice is increasing excessively day by day. *Ashu* rice is selling at Rs. 5-8, and *aus* at Rs. 4-8.

SAHACHAR,
July 29th, 1878.

High prices of rice in *Kuch Behár*.

42. The *Bardwan Sanjivani*, complaining of the want of rain in the district and the consequent rise in prices, remarks, that the rice, which sold during the general famine of 1281 B. S. (1874-75 A.D.) at not less than 16

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 30th, 1878.

Famine prospects in the Burdwan
district.

kaichá seers to the rupee, is now to be had at 14 and 15 seers, and if there be not a timely and proper fall of rain within the week, the rate will rise to 10 or 12 seers. We have never seen a rainy season like this, where in the month of *Shrávan* (June and July) the regular rainy month, when the corn-fields should be yellow with grain, they are full of grass and *jungle*. There is no prospect of these dreadful times departing; so that, if the authorities do not concert proper and timely measures, numberless people will die of starvation. The poor have stopped their two regular meals already; the dependent peasants are selling their stores of corn to get a supply of food; whilst the middle class of people are perplexed about disposing of the family ornaments to preserve their respect. The rich zamindars, and those who get fixed salaries of five or seven hundred rupees a month, cannot realize the above distress, arising from not only the dearness of rice, but other edibles also. The natives have become hardened and fear not famine, since they have been suffering so repeatedly from its dire effects. It is surprising that in such calamitous times exportation is not prohibited, so as to modify the rigours of the famine. Thousands of people are flocking to this place daily for food, whilst exportation is going on to supply other places, so that Bengal will become ruined by these two evils. When this part of the country raised abundant corn, it could supply other places; but now that it has failed on account of drought and the unproductiveness of the soil to permit the export of the produce will be fatal to its welfare. Mr. Larminie, the Collector, is entreated to see to the regulation of the price of rice; for if the mahájans of the district be allowed to continue to sell at such high rates to satisfy their covetousness, the country will be ruined. The chief and first obligation and duty of Government is to preserve its subjects.

BISHWA DÚT,
July 31st, 1878.

43. The *Maldah* correspondent of the *Bishwa Dút* says that the price of rice has risen very high there, being sold at 8 seers per rupee. Fish and vegetables have become very dear. Rice is being daily exported to Dacca.

Price of rice and edibles in Maldah.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKÁ,
July 31st, 1878.

44. After referring to the accounts of the Madras famine, the *Grám-vártá Prakáshiká* goes on to say that the state of corn and grain throughout the country is very bad; the price of all kinds of edibles has risen excessively. Some places, as Chotá Nagpore and Balasore, are suffering from want of rain; whilst others, like Rájsháhye and Kuch Behár, are flooded. The *ashu* crop has been much injured, and the peasants are sorely distressed. In Rangpur, rice is selling at Rs. 4-8; but it is probable this rate will not be maintained, as the price has risen on account of the excessive rain which has stopped all importation. We cannot predict the fate of that district, because, if the existing high rate of rice continues, famine will be imminent. In Kuch Behár, rice has risen to Rs. 5, and there is a probability of its rising still higher, if the heavy rain-pour continues; and even if it ceases at the end, we have not much hope of the winter crop. The state of Chittagong has been already referred to in a previous issue (noticed in the Weekly Report ending 20th July). Rice, which was selling there at Rs. 5-8, is now at Rs. 4-14. Poor people are unable to enjoy a full meal, on account of the price of rice having risen so very high in several places: some are obliged to content themselves with one meal a day. It dries up one's blood to think that there will be a famine certainly if paddy does not grow well this time. India's distress is quite full; she has now been suffering for some time: people are becoming emaciated from the want of a full meal. That India, which hitherto supplied the world freely with food, is now weeping for the want of it, and looking up to others for relief.

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45. The *Bhārat Mihir*, under its local heading, recommends that two out of the 30 additional Munsifs appointed by Government should be permanently attached to Mymensingh, as the suits in Tángail and Nikáli have increased.

BHARAT MIHİR,
July 25th, 1878.

46. This paper does not relish the idea of writing against any one, though it has been its misfortune to do so against Maulvie Israel, the Deputy Magistrate; but Government does not attend to the newspapers. This gentleman is not fit to hold charge of a sub-division, and yet the Magistrate, Mr. Pawsey, who knows the Maulvie's qualifications, has entrusted to him the charge of the upper portion of Kishorgunge, which is now suffering much on his account. Mr. Mosely, in his annual report, remarked on the Maulvie's incapacity. The Deputy may not wilfully wish to commit injustice, but his ways and manners are so unpolished, and his mode of procedure so bad, that we do not expect him to be able to conduct the duties of any sub-division. The former Commissioner of Dacca, Mr. Peacock, directed his transfer from Kishorgunge to the sudder station, and wished Bábu Krishnachandra Ráyá to take his place, but the change was not consented to.

BHARAT MIHİR.

47. The *Dinájpur* correspondent of this paper says that 14 or 15 bridges are required to be constructed on the 12 miles of road from Fulbári station to *Samjhia*, as much traffic comes by this road from surrounding places. The above road has now become impassable for passenger and traffic, owing to its having been cut up by the late rains, so that there is very little traffic for *Fulbári*, and the mahájans of *Samjhia* and *Fakirgunj* are obliged to despatch their goods by boats. Further, the 12 miles of road from *Fulbári* to *Patiram bandar* is in as bad a state as the above-mentioned road. Efforts are being made to construct a bamboo bridge.

BHARAT MIHİR.

48. A communicated article to this paper notices the opening of a Hindu Hotel called the *Sakuntalá House* at No. 5, Beadon Street, Calcutta, where, together with board and lodging, wines, ale, and spirits are also to be had; whereupon the writer remarks that, with the adoption of English Science and Literature, the natives have imitated the great vice of drinking, tending thereby to deteriorate the character of the people of this land to a great degree. A hotel for the accommodation of travellers and *mafussilites* would be well and good, but the founders and managers of the present establishment have degraded themselves a great deal by their imitation of European civilization; and future generations, when after the lapse of a century, they chance to peruse the advertisement of the *Sakuntalá House*, will revile the present race as a set of drunkards. If native society would but look on drinking as a sin, no one would place temptation in the way of our educated youths by establishing such a place. It is to be hoped that the frequenters of the hotel will not consist of the sons of respectable people. It is reported that a part of this new hotel has been set apart for prostitutes: our educated public should loudly protest against the continuance of such a place as this, holding out, as it does, the worst allurements to the youths of our schools and colleges.

BHARAT
SANSKARAK,
June 26th, 1878.

49. The *Bhārat Sanskarak* notices in its column of news the gradual increase in the number of disturbances, murders, dacoities, and poisonings which occur in Backergunge. No less than 92 cases of murder were committed to the Sessions during the past six months. Under this state of circumstances, there is no telling when the place will improve.

BHARAT
SANSKARAK,
July 26th, 1878.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
July 26th, 1878.

50. An anonymous correspondent, embodies in his letter to the *Education Gazette*, the four following complaints—*first*, the abolition of the Bengali

Páthshálá to the great detriment of the poorer classes; *second*, the gradual declension of the Post Office, owing to the disregard of the officials, by the lessening of the pay of the Post Master; *third*, the police outpost of *Hálisahar* has no superior officer in it, but consists only of some of the lower grade of policemen, who are not only few in number, but uneducated also; *fourth*, the bad state of the tanks of private individuals, the jungles on the sides of which increase vastly during the rains, and subsequently rot and generate malaria. If the owners but cleared out these tanks, not only would people living far away from the Ganges be furnished with good water to drink, but with fish also. The well-to-do men and educated youths are reproached for their inattention to the wants of the place.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
July 27th, 1878.

51. A correspondent of the *Sulabha Samachar* writes, saying that small boats and canoes are obliged to be used as means of communication on account of the great flood in Kuch Behár, which has also reduced the people to great extremities for food.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 30th, 1878.

52. The *Bardwán Sanjivani*, in its local column, draws attention to the fact of two men, *Masu* and *Pasu*, reported to be the servants of the *Tejganj Dé Babus*, abusing certain respectable persons on the high road near the *Alamganj Masjid* on the 23rd ultimo at 7½ A.M. It appears the parties have been involved in a suit for some time past. It is a matter of much regret and surprise that respectable people should suffer such indignity near an *outpost* in a public place, and that, too, in the midst of the town.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 29th, 1878.

53. In the correspondence columns of the *Som Prakash*, the following remarks appear relative to a place called *Khámárgáchi*—An uncivilized gang of about 40 or 42 men and women from the Western Provinces have settled themselves down in a field near this village: they do not dwell permanently in one locality: sometimes in the field, at other times under trees or in sheds made of coarse mats. During the eight days they were here, they were not seen begging or laboring in any way for their subsistence. They daily killed and ate jackals, snakes, and other animals. They also consumed Rs. 68 worth of liquor which they purchased at a grog-shop in *Sijá*, a village adjoining *Khámárgáchi*, till at last they were detected in eating a recently buried Musalman corpse which they took out of the earth and a dead cow, when they were driven off by the Musalmans, and took up their abode across the *Bhágirathi* river in a field in *Sukságar* where they took occasion to commit burglary in the latter village; they were seized by the *Chagdá* police and transferred to *Ránághát* for trial. Rumour says that much wealth was found with them, from which it would appear that they subsist by theft. The authorities should keep an eye on their movements, and make them settle down in one place. Further on, the same writer complains of there being a *beel* which is a remnant of a rivulet formerly issuing from the *Bánkánadi*: the water collects in this *beel* from all sides and saturates the surrounding villages, producing much fever thereby; a canal should be excavated from the *Behálánadi* to the mouth of the *beel*, connecting it also with the *Bhágirathi* thus finding a passage for the confined water to the great advantage of 30 or 35 other villages.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 30th, 1878.

54. An anonymous correspondent, writing under date, the 30th July, draws the attention of the Chairman and Secretary to the Municipality, to the great impediment to traffic for the railway on account

Complaints against the Burdwan Municipality for impediment to railway traffic.

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of heaps of stone being laid by the side of the one narrow road for repairs, creating a regular block for carts going to and fro with goods. On account of the great increase in the railway traffic, carts, &c., have been for some years passing through the town, which cut up the road and necessitated the construction of a new road outside for these to pass into the Nutangunge; but the old practice had been again resumed of going through the city; then why was so much money spent for the outside road? Does not the Secretary look after these matters?

55. The *Grámvártá Prakashiká*, a paper published at Comercolly, complains of the immense inconvenience which people have to suffer from the irregularity and delay in conveying letters between the surrounding villages and this place: a distance of about six miles, takes as many days, as it did hours before, for the receipt of a letter by post. Government work is too much impeded from the existing bad state of affairs in the Post Offices here. There is no objection to diminishing expenses. If the Post Offices be not meant for profit only, then the postal authorities will not let the present public inconvenience continue.

GRÁMVÁRTA
PRAKASHIKÁ,
July 31st, 1878.

MISCELLANEOUS.

56. In a communicated article to this paper, the writer regrets the present deplorable state of the trades and professions, and recommends the formation of co-operative societies, like that of Monghyr, where neither envy nor craftiness can enter. Let educated and intelligent natives start and support a newspaper for the encouragement of the trades and professions, and for the necessary inquiries into, and investigation of, matters relative to them. The tradespeople should also constitute themselves into a committee, and start a price-current of the different articles of trade ruling at the several marts and places in the country.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 29th, 1878.

57. The *Som Prakash* makes the following remarks relative to the recent dispute among the members of the medical profession as to the admission of Dr. Mahéndralála Sarkár to the Faculty of Medicine. The Editor says, from the conduct of the Faculty of the Calcutta University, we have come to the conclusion that even learning cannot divest itself of the taint of bigotry; the learned and the ignorant, the strong and the weak-minded, are alike under its power. In the present case, there need not have been any apprehension that Mahéndralála Babu, would have intruded his opinions when there might have been no occasion for it. Be that as it may, such bigotry is grievous. In conclusion, it must be said that Mahéndra Bábu has evinced great wisdom and courage in giving up the honor.

SOM PRAKASH.

58. The *Sahachar* says there was a great want of consideration on the part of the University in allowing a person so learned and of such high reputation and character as Dr. Mahéndralála Sarkár to remain so long a member of the Senate only; we felt grateful, however, when he was appointed to the Faculty of Medicine, but it gives us pain to inform our readers that his admission into it was opposed by the medical profession on account of his homœopathic principles. We hope, however, that the allopathic doctors will weigh well and consider the error into which they have fallen; for we allege, in the name of the country, that great benefit

SAHACHAR,
July 29th, 1878.

would result to the public from his election to the Faculty of Medicine. Why then have its members, influenced by envy and sordid motives, tried to deprive the public of that benefit?

BHARAT MITRA,
July 30th, 1878.

59. No. 7 of the *Bhārat Mitra*, a new Hindi paper, printed at the *Saraswatī Press*, Calcutta, has, for the first time, been received in this office. The present number contains a controversial argument with the *Behār Bandhu* of Patna, items of news, and the state of the European and Indian money markets.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 3rd August 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.